

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 have been cancelled. Claims 10-14 have been added. New claims 10-14 patentably distinguish over the art cited by the Examiner.

The Examiner cited as a primary reference the reference to Regan. Some of the claims were rejected over Regan in view of Simone '209 and some of the claims were rejected over Regan in view of Simone and Axelrod '334. As amended, the new claims patentably distinguish over these three references.

New claim 10 requires a method for making a chew toy comprising the step of "shelling the kernels of corn from a corn cob." The claim further requires soaking the shelled corn cob for at least one hour in an aqueous salt solution "without breaking the corn cob into pieces" whereby the corn cob is infused and impregnated with the salt of the salt solution. The method then comprises allowing the shelled corn cob to dry in the air and feeding the shelled corn cob to a rodent whereby the rodent is attracted to the salt taste of the corn cob and chews on the corn cob. The corn cob is used to wear down the rodent's teeth while the rodent chews on the corn cob.

The Regan reference cited by the Examiner does not show the step of shelling the kernels of corn from a corn cob. Furthermore, it does not show the step of soaking the "shelled corn cob" for at least one hour in an aqueous saturated salt solution "without breaking the corn cob into pieces". The cited reference also does not show feeding the "shelled corn cob" infused and impregnated with the salt of the salt solution to a rodent, whereby the rodent is attracted to the salt taste of the corn cob. And finally the reference does not suggest using the corn cob to wear down the rodent's teeth while the rodent chews on the corn cob.

Similarly, the Simone reference discloses an edible pet chew product having a flexible cellular matrix in which is contained a material such as corn cob "fractions" having a mechanical

cleansing function. There is no disclosure of shelling the kernels of corn from a corn cob and soaking the corn cob "without breaking the corn cob into pieces". Furthermore there is no showing of allowing the shelled corn cob to dry in the air after the soaking step. Instead, the chew toy is impregnated with corn cob fractions and the corn cob is not kept in its original form as required by claim 10.

Thus, claim 10 differs from the Regan reference in that it does not show a shelled corn cob or the step of shelling the corn cob, or the step of soaking the shelled corn cob in an aqueous saturated salt solution. Similarly, the Simone reference does not disclose soaking a shelled corn cob in a saturated salt solution "without breaking the corn cob into pieces".

Accordingly claim 10 patentably distinguishes over the two cited references and should be allowed.

Claim 11 depends from claim 10 and further requires the step of soaking the shelled corn cob "in a room temperature ethanol solution saturated with salt and drying the corn cob in a convection oven at 50 degrees C." None of the references disclose soaking the corn cob in an ethanol solution at room temperature, and none of the references shows drying the corn cob in a convection oven. Accordingly, claim 11 further patentably distinguishes over the art cited by the Examiner.

Claim 12 depends from claim 11 and further requires soaking the shelled corn cob in a solution further containing folic acid, whereby the dried corn cob becomes impregnated with both salt and folic acid. There is no disclosure in any of the references to providing these two ingredients into a solution in which an entire shelled corn cob is soaked. Accordingly, claim 12 further patentably distinguishes over the art cited by the Examiner.

Claim 13 is a new independent claim requiring the step of shelling the kernels of corn off of a corn cob, immersing the shelled corn cob in an unbroken or ground state in an aqueous saturated salt solution, pulling a vacuum over the shelled corn cob and the solution such that air pockets inside the shelled corn cob are filled with aqueous saturated salt solution. Furthermore the claim requires feeding the shelled corn cob infused and impregnated with the salt to a rodent and using the corn cob to wear down the rodent's teeth while the rodent chews on the shelled corn cob.

As explained above, the Regan reference does not disclose shelling the kernels of corn off of a corn cob. Furthermore, it does not show immersing the corn cob in a salt solution, and it does not disclose pulling a vacuum over the shelled corn cob and the solution such that the air pockets inside the shelled corn cob are filled with aqueous saturated salt solution. Similarly, the Simone reference discloses utilizing corn cob fractions, but there is no disclosure of immersing the shelled corn cob in an unbroken or ground state in an aqueous saturated salt solution. There is also no disclosure of pulling a vacuum over the shelled corn cob. The Axelrod reference discloses a chew toy, but it does not disclose using a chew toy made of a shelled corn cob to wear down the rodent's teeth and to attract the rodent to the salt taste of the shelled product. The present invention provides a means for utilizing corn cobs without grinding them and without adding them to other materials. Certainly this type of chew toy and the method for making it is unique and is not shown or suggested by any of the references.

Claim 14 is an independent claim which requires taking a corn cob with kernels of corn on it. The corn cob is broken into no less than four equal shorter lengths and is soaked with the kernels of corn on it for one hour in a hot aqueous salt solution whereby the corn cob becomes infused and impregnated with the salt. The corn cob is dried with the kernels of the corn on it

and the corn cob is fed to a rodent which is attracted to the salt taste of the corn cob whereby the rodent chews on the corn cob and the corn cob wears down the rodent's teeth. The Regan reference shows feeding squirrels with ears of corn, but there is no disclosure of soaking the corn cob and the kernels of corn in an aqueous hot salt solution. The use of heat and the use of cutting the corn cob into no more than four equal shorter lengths is a feature not shown or suggested by any of the references. Accordingly, claim 14 further patentably distinguishes over the references cited by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued. If prosecution of the present application can be facilitated by a telephone interview, Applicant invites the Examiner to telephone Applicant's attorney at the below identified number.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Respectfully submitted,



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